



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Matthew G. Bevin, Governor**

**Charles G. Snively, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor proclaims April 22 as Earth Day in Kentucky** *Public, state employees invited to April 21 celebration*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 12, 2016)** – Governor Matt Bevin has proclaimed April 22 as Earth Day in Kentucky. Each year, Kentucky celebrates Earth Day to increase awareness of the importance of conservation, stewardship and protection of our natural environment.

This year, the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC), the Kentucky Division for Air Quality and the Kentucky Environmental Education Council are co-hosting the 2016 Earth Day Celebration Thursday, April 21, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Brown-Forman Room and Cralle-Day Garden at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in downtown Frankfort.

EEC Secretary Charles Snively will kick off the event with remarks beginning at 10:30 a.m. The celebration includes recognition of Kentucky's newest Green Ribbon Schools and the Green and Healthy Schools and the presentation of Earth Day Awards by the Environmental Quality Commission. A number of state and local agencies will have booths to educate state employees and the public about how to become better environmental stewards.

"Across the Commonwealth, students, educators and other citizens are making commitments to improve the environmental health of our beautiful state," said Secretary Snively. "I encourage Kentuckians who are interested in learning how they can promote conservation and stewardship to stop by and browse the exhibits and ask questions.

"It's also important to celebrate the many Kentuckians who are already engaging in environmental stewardship – and the EQC is doing just that through the annual Earth Day Awards," added Secretary Snively.

Here are a few exhibitor highlights:

- The Capital City Beekeepers Association will distribute information concerning beekeeping, the importance of bees in pollination and in making honey. If the weather cooperates, an observation hive will be on display. The beekeepers will have honey for tasting and for purchase. Also available for purchase will be “Bee Friendly Kentucky” tee-shirts.
- The Kentucky Department for Public Health will highlight Kentucky’s Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, “Your Environment, Your Health.” Kentucky is one of two states to receive a grant to collect data on environmental factors, exposure and health outcomes. Find out how we affect the environment and how the environment affects us.
- The Kentucky Division of Forestry will have approximately 300 tree seedlings to give away, along with information on invasive species, outdoor fire safety and forest stewardship.
- Kentucky State University will show how to get hands-on with your watershed and learn about point-source and non-point source pollution and what you can do to reduce it.
- The No Drive-Thru Crew, a group of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade SCAPA Bluegrass students, will share their message of reducing carbon emissions by walking into restaurants to order food, rather than using the drive-thru. Their award-winning project won them and their school \$25,000 in this year’s Lexus Eco Challenge.
- Visitors will be able to check out electric cars including a Chevy Volt and a Tesla Model S, which has more than a 270-mile range.
- Ollie Otter, the mascot of the Kentucky Division of Water, will be on hand to greet the crowd.

Other participating state and local agencies include:

Kentucky Environmental Education Council  
Bluegrass Greensource  
Walk/Bike Frankfort  
Woods and Waters Trust  
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund  
Division of Waste Management  
Reforest Frankfort  
Kids Grow Kentucky  
Department of Parks  
Food Chain of Lexington  
Kentucky Emergency Management  
Division of Compliance Assistance  
Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission  
Kentucky Home Performance, Kentucky Housing Corp.  
Frankfort Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites

The celebration is free and open to the public. For more information, call Ricki Gardenhire at 502-564-5525 or email [Ricki.gardenhire@ky.gov](mailto:Ricki.gardenhire@ky.gov). Visit the website at <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>.

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